

F B I

Date: 2/16/70

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EXTENDED BY SP-1 B/CW 8/26/80

REASON FOR EXTENSION

FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW FOR

DECLASSIFICATION 2/16/90

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-165706)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (157-1204) (P)

SUBJECT: BLACK PANTHER PARTY (BPP)

RM - BPP

OO: San Francisco

Re San Francisco airtel to Bureau, dated 2/2/70.

The following is the regular biweekly intelligence summary for the BPP for the period ending 2/15/70:

The main activities centered around the fund-raising and publicity work, the latter including the usual strong attacks on the police and the courts.

FUND-RAISING

Plans continued to be laid for the BPP's birthday celebrations around the country. The date of HUEY's birth is 2/17 and in this connection it will be noted that the latest issue of "The Black Panther" newspaper is dated 2/17/70, that is, on HUEY's birthday. Usually the date of issue of the newspaper is shown as a Saturday. Since this last issue is dedicated to HUEY, the date of his birth was used as the issue date.

The initial fund-raising event occurred in Berkeley, Calif., on 2/6/70, when approximately 1200 persons paid \$3 each

- 8 - Bureau
1 - Each Office
4 - San Francisco
WAC/pae

(70)

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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

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police, and there have been perhaps 12 not 28 Panthers killed by police officers. Also, PARKS never mentioned the circumstances under which the police had to take the action they did. PARKS also made a great deal of the alleged plan of the Berkeley PD to raid the Berkeley Headquarters of the BPP. This is an old item which the BPP has tried to exploit in the past with very little public interest. The article also described "the gentle" mannerisms of CLEAVER, and the text was mostly a repetition of material seen previously.

The article also contained pictures of 19 Panthers listed as murdered, including several killed by unknown assailants or rival blacks, one killed by his wife (called a police agent by the BPP), and a photograph of the well-known ALEX RACKLEY, who was killed by the Panthers themselves, as has been admitted in court in New Haven, Conn.

From the above, it could be seen that the article, as written by PARKS, could not be considered "objective." On the other hand, the introduction to the article by PARKS by an unnamed "Life" writer was seen to be more factual and the inclusion of the photographs of the Panthers with the descriptive data would seem to have destroyed much of the claim of the allegation of "28 murdered Panthers."

After the publication of the article PARKS contacted BPP Headquarters wondering how the leaders of the BPP liked his work. There was no comment from the BPP. PARKS claimed that he had had to "fight hard" to get the disclosure of the Berkeley assault plan published in the article. PARKS also said that he planned to publish an anthology of the piece as originally written by him to show what "Life" had cut out of his writing.

In conclusion, PARKS called ~~ELDRIDGE CLEAVER~~ by the familiar name "Poppa Rage" *Cob*

As an example of foreign publicity, the following newspaper article was noted.

French
The French newspaper published in Paris, "Le Nouvel Observateur," issue of 12/15/69, contained an article written by a man named ~~ANDREW KOPKIND~~. This article on the BPP was noted to be full of usual inaccuracies, a few examples of which

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to hear what was mainly a 3-hour musical program. The Master of Ceremonies was ROLAND YOUNG, formerly a local disc jockey and now a reporter for "The Black Panther" newspaper. YOUNG was fired from his job at Radio Station KSAN for quoting the threat to kill President NIXON, which had been made previously by Chief of Staff DAVID HILLIARD. It was reported that there were no political speeches of consequence at the concert.

Before the event there had been some fear that the ticket price was too high. It appears that these fears were unfounded when the audience showed up. Proceeds of this evening went to the Black Panther Legal Defense Fund.

All recent issues of "The Black Panther", as well as the "People's World" (PW), carried publicity for the HUEY NEWTON birthday parties, both in the U. S. and abroad. It was believed that there would be NEWTON meetings in London with the BPP represented by CONNIE MATTHEWS and in Germany, led by the group called the Solidarity Committee. Locally, the Stanford Community Against War and Fascism planned a benefit at Stanford University on 2/16/70.

PUBLICITY

During the past two weeks the following nationwide and local representatives of the news media sought or were given BPP interviews:

Probably the most important single piece of publicity was the "Life Magazine" article on the BPP by GORDON PARKS, a well-known Negro photographer and reporter. The PARKS part of the article featured an interview of ELDRIDGE CLEAVER. PARKS, in his introductory remarks, mentioned the need of remaining an objective reporter. He claimed that this would prevent him from ever joining the BPP. However, it was noted that during his interview with CLEAVER, PARKS accepted CLEAVER's allegations concerning a "ambush" by the Oakland Police Department that left CLEAVER with a "bullet-shattered leg," and BOBBY HUTTON "murdered." PARKS also accepted CLEAVER's allegation of 28 Black Panthers murdered. The truth of the above matters is that the BPP laid the ambush for the Oakland Police Department; CLEAVER was wounded in the foot and his leg was not shattered, while engaged in a shoot-out instigated by himself; HUTTON was killed during the same shoot-out with the

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